ANN ARBOR, Mich., Jan. 9, 1859. I have spent the last week in traversing the State of Michigan, or, rather, that southern half of its lower peninsula to which its settlement and population have mostly been thus far confined. The northern half of this peninsula is colder, and in good part aninviting to the cultivator, being diversified by vast swampe, by sterile, gravelly knolls, and by dense forests of but moderately valuable and not yet readily accessible timber, so that its settlement is hkely to be slow, and its population sparse for generations. The facts that a portion of the pioneers of this northern region have just been compelled to appeal, for the second time, to the charity of their fellow-citizens, and that the new Governor urges that State sid in some form be granted them, are not calculated to commend that region to future immigrants. But the Michigan known to most travelers, and containing seven-eighths of the population and productive industry of the State, stretches north a busdred miles or so from the north line of Indiana. reaching from Toledo in the east to within some fifty miles of Chicago on the west, embracing some 20,000 square miles of mainly arable land, having the average climate of New-York or Connectiout and Rhode Island, with about the area of Vermont and New-Hampshire combined. It is to this area that my recent observations have been restricted.

At first view, Michigan would seem far less viting to farmers in quest of a location than her more western sisters, and accordingly her growth has, for the last twenty years, been far slower than theirs. Her soil is, in the average, not nearly so rich as that of the prairies, and is generally covered with heavy timber, while her untimbered lands are apt to be swampy. There are some exceptions near her southern border; but in general her low levels are covered with bog-grass, or with a growth of black ash or low spruce, and cannot be made productive of grain nearly so soon, so cheaply, nor so abundantly, as can the prairies of Illinois or Iowa. Hence it is but natural that the great majority of Eastern farmers in quest of new lands should push on to the prairie States, there to secure lands that are readily made broadly and generously productive.

There is, however, another side to the picture, less obvious but not less real. Its outlines are as follows:

1. Michigan is considerably nearer to market than Illinois, Wisconsin or Iowa, insuring to her farmers better average prices for their products, while she is so surrounded and permeated by navigable waters that she will always enjoy superior facilities for the exportation of her produce.

2. She has a great abundance and variety of valwable timber, including the choicest White Pine, which Illinois and Indiana, as well as more Eastern States, must buy of her, not only for building, but often for fencing.

3. She has the benefit of three completed lines of Railroad, each running directly across her territory, or along her southern border, in the direction which her travel and transportation would naturaily wish to take, so that scarcely any point within the area above indicated is more than thirty miles from a railroad, while most of her smart villages are directly upon one. These railroads have been so built as not to involve either the State or her several Cities and Counties in debt, while such land-grants have been obtained from Congress in aid of transverse or north-and-south roads as insure the construction of two or three within the next | and beautiful young city of at least 12,000 people. half dozen years-all without tax or sensible bur- This city has but recently been rendered accessible den on the people.

4. Her climate is milder and more equable, because of the vast bodies of deep water which nearly surround her, than that of the prairie States, while her dense woods check the force of the harsher winds, rendering the growth of Apples and other Fruits far easier here than on or near the great northern prairies.

cent immigration, is more American and home- portion of the route is not provided for, but there in each expectation, he still continues to derive geneous than that of the prairie States, and assimilates more readily and completely with new set tiers from New-York and New-England.

6. Speculation has not, since 1836, raged here a it has done further West: hence the prices of lands and lots have not been so wildly inflated, and the people are not now so generally in debt. Those who hold lands are able to sell them at moderate prices without losing so much on them as the bolders of choice locations further West are often required to do.

-I do not say that these considerations render

Michigan a more advantageous location than Illinois or any other Western State, for this is a point on which every one interested must be his own judge; but I do say that the matter is by no means one-sided as has been generally supposed. Other things being equal, there can be little doubt that a lecation including timber and prairie, so as to build in the edge of and obtain timber and fuel from the former, while cultivating mainly the latter, affords the best chance for the ploueer intent on making a new homestead. Yet the miles of just such locations through which I passed on the Western borber of the Illinois bottoms just above Naples did not seem nearly so thrifty as the settlements more recently hewn from the wilderness which I passed in Kalamazoo, Allegan and Kent Counties in Western Michigan. Pleasantly as the dwellings were nested in along the edge of the Illinois bluff, they were seldom framed and almost never painted while the large herds of cattle at work on cornstalks around them were rarely provided with anything like tolerable shelter. I think I did not see one good bank to every twenty farmers' dwellings along that Illinois bluff, though the houses appeared to be from ten to twenty years old and the farms would average at least twenty head of cattle to each. I believe it is generally held that he who vorks prairie may better live on prairie-that the in-ee, strong, almost incessant prairie breezes dispe te malaria, and that fevers are far more com mo a smong dwallers in the skirts of the timber that smong those who live square out on the open plain . Here, too, there will sometimes be ague, as all nost anywhere that new, fertile soil is being broke n up and cultivated; but it soon wears out sepecially if good water is obtained and used ex clusively. And it is very generally agreed that discases of the lungs are far less common and less fatal on the prairies than elsewhere.

To buy a heavily timbered quarter-section, let daylight in upon it, put up a log cabin, and more a family into it, with a determination to make there a farm and get a living while making it, is an se of genuins courage. Many a man has been erowned a hero on considerably cheaper terms. He who does it better deserves a pension than the ex-soldiers whom Congress has seemed disposed to currer for life on the Treasury. For the first half dozen years or so, the growth of that farm | far the younger of the two, has the larger number

will be scarcely perceptible, since five days' work must be done elsewhere to every one devoted to the enlargement of the clearing. Making roads, going to mill, bunting cattle astray in the dense forest, making fences, &c., &c., with the necessity of working for others to procure those necessaries of his that the narrow patch of stumpy clearing refuses to supply, consume at least five-sixths of the time: so that the poor man who from the first adds five acres per annum to the area of arable soil which surrounds his cabin, does very well. But when fifteen or twenty acres thus cleared begin to furnish adequate bread for his family and grass for his cattle, the case is bravely altered. Mills are by this time nearer and more easily reached; roads are better, and require less labor at his hands; each addition to his clearing requires fencing on but two sides, instead of three or four as at first; the older stumps begin to yield to the plow; wild animals and birds are less destructive of his growing crops than when the clearing was but a hand's breadth; so that two or three days per week may now be given to clearing instead of one. After forty acres have been cleared, the timber ceases to be an obstacle; the neighboring sawmill or embryo village will take some of it at a price that will at least pay for cutting and drawing; the black ash swamp supplies in abundance the best of rail-timber; a barn this year, a corn-crib next, and a wagon shed the year after, absorb a good many trees; the household fires lick up the residue; so that acres are insensibly swept off without an effort: the remaining woods break the force of the sharp winds, and furnish nuts and other food for swine: and, when the eightieth scre has been cleared, the quarter-section is worth more than if it were all treeless, and clearing for clearing's sake may be suspended. Local or personal circumstances must necessarily modify this picture, but its essential and general truth will, I think, he conceded. And thus a State or section, like a single farm, when denuded of a portion of its timber, is far more inviting to the settler than if it had no

-Western Michigan is well timbered. The Kalamszoe, Grand River, Muskegan, &c., are broadly belted with Pine, mainly of good quality; their tributaries afford excellent mill power for sawing it, while vessels ascend these streams almost or quite to the vicinity of the lower mills and load with lumber for Chicago, Milwaukee, &c. Lumbering has been a lucrative business; but "the Panie" of 1857 prostrated it, and I think a majority of the sales made during the last fifteen months have been made at a loss. Good boards have sold at Chicago throughout the last year at \$7 to \$10 per thousand, at which price two-thirds of the makers are not merely squandering their choice timber but actually losing money in its production. They ought not to cut another tree for a year hence, so as to work off the old stock and raise the price to a point that will enable them to live; but some will go on because they cannot stop; others because they hope for better times; and the result will probably be low prices for lumber through several succeeding years. Meantime, this, like other branches of manufacture, is good for the farmer, whether profitable to those engaged in it or not. Grain of all kinds, with most other articles of food, usually commands better prices throughout the lumbering region of Michigan than at Chicago or Detroit.

Allegan, at the head of navigation on the Kala-

mazoo, is a young and thrifty lumbering village of over 2,000 inhabitants. Grand Rapids, occupying a similar position on Grand River, is an energetic from the East by the completion of the Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad, whose western termique is Grand Haven, at the mouth of Grand River, twenty miles below, on Lake Michigan, whence strong and swift boats are expected to take passengers to Milwankee in seven hours, making the whole time to Milwaukee from Detroit about twelve, and from New-York (via Niagara Falls and Canada) some 5. Her population, owing to the psucity of re- thirty-six hours. As yet, however, the steamhost Spring will right everything. Disappointed hitherto a slower train run each way between Grand Haven and Detroit daily. In due time, Grand Rapids will have ceased to derive importance and wealth from the lumber trade of Western Michigan, whereof she is now the emporium; but her position as the second city of the State will not thereby be shaken. She has inexhaustible quarries of the finest Gypsum, of which 20,000 tuns per annum are already used in agriculture by the farmers of Michigan, which amount will be doubled, and soon trebled, on the construction of the north and south land-grant road from Indiana through Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids to some point near Mackinac, of which road a part has already been graded. And there is no reason why Wisconsin and Illinois, through Milwaukee and Chicago, should not require at least as much of this fertilizer as Michican. I asked an enterprising farmer at Sycamore. Ill., why he did not use Plaster, and he answered that it was not to be had in Chicago. Thinking he must be mistaken, I took up The Prairie Farmer and searched it in vain-no Plaster for farmers' use was advertised therein. This will of course be remedied forthwith, and Plaster become as abundant in Chicago as in Boston or New-York. But, beside this, Grand Rapids has Sult Springs, said to be of excellent quality and strength, and is already the seat of an extensive trade. I shall be disappointed if she has less than 50,000 inhabitants by the census of 1870.

All the considerable towns on the Central Road are quietly and steadily growing-Kalamszoo, I think, the fastest. That is a very pleasant city of some 8,000 inhabitants, surrounded by a rich farming country, and destined to receive a vivid impulse from the completion of the land grant railroad which here crosses the Central. Niles, fifty miles further west, is smaller, but beautifully situated on the St. Joseph, whose sandy bluffs of modest altitude are best appreciated by those whose boots have for some days been intimate with the deep, black mud of the prairies. Battle Creek, Marshall Jackson-all east of Kalamazoo-are steadily growing: Marshall, baving the State Prison, bids fair to report a large increase of population in 1860. I do not know that crime is increasing in this State, but convictions certainly are. A Judge of ber Supreme Court recently assured me that there are at least four times as many convictions now for capital offenses as there would or could be if they continued to be punished by death. An effort is making for the restoration of the death penalty. but it seems to be very feebly responded to.

Ann Arbor, by reason of the location here of the State University, has claims to be regarded as the intellectual capital, while her neighbor Ypsilanti, having secured the State Normal School, is her rival. Each of these institutions is wholly supported by State funds, rendering the tuition perfeetly free; but I think the Normal School, though

of pupils. The Normal School of course welcomes | one another upon a topic of vast National concern, to its halls young women as well as young men; the University as yet opens its doors to males only. A pressure in favor of a more liberal and impartial rule begins to be felt, and the demand is backed By Gov. Wisner in his late excellent Message. I think I am correct in stating that the Faculty of the University form the chief remaining obstacle to the admission of women, and I judge that their resistance will not be protracted inveterately. In fact, when it is conceded that the education of youth of both sexes in the same classes at a Normal School is proper and unexceptionable, it is manifest that there is no remaining ground on which to justify the exclusion of girls from colleges-that the argument is exhausted, and that only time is required to insure the inevitable result. At present, the proposition of the anti-Progressives is that a Female Department be added to or created in the University-devoted, we must presume, to the inculcation of female Greek, philosophy and mathematics. When such a proposition is made on the side of the past, the end cannot be distant.

-Winter, so long withheld, is here at last. It began to snow about noon on Thursday, and spowed capriciously till the next noon or later, cayering the earth to a depth of five or six inches. Then the wind settled into the north-west, and yesterday morning the mercury was down at zero. It is still cold, with a prospect of more snow. And never was Winter more welcome, whether in this wooden State or on the prairies further west. H. G.

FROM WASHINGTON.

ECONOMY AND PLUNDER. Correspondence of the N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9, 1859. Among the events of special interest during the last week in Congress was the debate in the Senate on Wednesday in regard to economy.

The Government is ashore for want of funds. The Trensuary is scooped dry, and, in the flash language of the Exchange, it has to shin in order to get on. This exposure of its condition is made the occasion for numerous public professions of hostility to extravagance and waste, which can only be productive of a horse-laugh when contrasted with the practices of many of these who are most profuse in their professions. People talk about holding up, and then rote for spending. But talking is nothing. The only true tell-tale of your legislator is his rotes. He may talk himself blind about his virtues, his scruples and his purposes, but who believes him when he votes in direct hostility to his professions?

Neither the Executive Government nor Congress s a whole, has any intention of retrenching the National expenditures in any direction. On the contrary, the crowd is as fierce to day for swelling those expenditures as ever. The only hindrance is want of money. The only reason the water is not let on, is because of the want of head. The gates are hoisted, but the pond is dry. There never was a crew of California miners waiting for the rainy season, more anxious or more cager in watching the sky, than are the Treasury magnates in waiting the signs of the revival of business, and the consequent replenishment of Uncle Sam's

The only way to check the spendthrift party is to keep them short. This consideration operates to induce a great degree of indifference in the minds of many members of Congress as to altering the present tariff; and it looks now as though nothing would be done with it. The party in power will not agree upon any fiscal system which looks to the just protection of the industrial interests of the country as its basis; and, therefore, no man who wants to see such a system established has any interest in any bungling scheme to increase the revenue, simply to raise means to add to an already too lavish national expenditure.

Mr. Cobb is burly and keeps to work, expecting and prophesying that things will all come round right. In the Spring he thinks everything will come right in the Fall, and in the Fall, that the hopes. He is no nearer their fruition now, from any cause now visible, except the mere lapse of time, than he was a year ago. What the country needs is the remunerative employment of its labor. This it has not now in either of the three great branches of industry, Commerce, Manufactures or Agriculture. The only one of these three great interests that can be effected by legislation, directly, is manufactures. A judicious application of egislative stimulus to this branch of industry, would start the wheels of business and quicken the enterprise and activities of the whole country. But this stimulus it will not get under the present Administration, or from the party in power. Tais source of improvement will, therefore, remain dry for the present. As to commerce, this is, to a great extent, the handmaid and dependent of the manufacturing interests in the present age of the world. Beside this, it is laboring under a heavy load of its own creating. There is a great glut of shipping all over the world, and time is requisite to relieve it. Agriculture alone remains to quicken the demand for labor, and enhance its price. But the price of agricultural products, of breadstuffs especially, affords no encouragement or promise.

The business prospects of the country are thus under a cloud, and there they are likely to remain till we have a change of Administration, and get one that will not besitate to stimulate the national industry by a "judicious tariff." There is no other way out of our existing lethargy, except by some accidental circumstance. A short crop in Europe might answer the purpose. But nothing short of some form of war, pestilence, or famine, in some quarter of the globe, can set our business affairs going with any kind of activity, in the absence of all judicious legislation having that end in view.

Mr. Cobb, therefore, and the plunderers genererally, may as well be patient. The thing most likely to happen is the fighting of the next Presidential election on the hard times. The Republican party will have, in the next canvass, the aid of a sound national policy of administration to back its unconquerable principles. The party in power, therefore, if it can bring neither war nor famine to its aid, may as well get ready to sing its nunc dimittis.

In fact, it is wholly unreasonable to expect anything of an Administration like this, which has no unity of sentiment upon the only public question which touches the pockets of the people. The debating school exercises of President Buchanan and Secretary Cobb over the tariff-one contending for specific duties, and the other lustily opposing them-are amusing enough to mere spectators, but are childish and contemptible when viewed in the light of the urgent needs of a National industry lying prostrate. It is a sprry spectacle to see members of an Administration spending their strength in combatting the views of

and it is much more profitable and proper to dismiss such wranglers than to wait for them to come to an agreement. Such is public sentiment among thinking men in Congress, and such it will doubtless be found to be among the people.

The Opposition must form a party having the fundamental ideas of the Republicans for its basis, or rather, I may say, the Republican party is already such a party), and assert a policy looking to, and aiding the revival of the industrial interests of the country by legislation, and it must make war pron the lavish expenditure and wanton extravagance of the present and past Administrations, and insist upon a retrenchment of the exponses of the Government, and a reform in its administration. The principles of the Republican party are immaculate, and all that is wanting is a national policy to correspond. The times, and the circumstances of the country, are propitious for the inauguration of such a policy, and the way is as plain as a turnpike. There is a work to do, and the Opposition is the only power to do it: Corruption must be rebuked and stayed, extravagance must be arrested, the industrial interests of the country must be aided by legislation, economy of administration must be in-

Whatever may be pretended to the contrary, the party in power is mainly responsible for the late extraordinary increase of the national expenditures, and it should be held accountable therefor. It positively refuses, in theory and practice, to recognize the claims of the industrial interests of the country to aid or protection by legislation, and the objects aimed at cannot therefore be reached by any possible method except by ejecting that parts from power. Let these views be thoroughly expounded and made plain over the country, and be backed by the well understood principles of the Republican party on the slavery question, and an opposition can be compacted amply sufficient to take control of the government at the next Presidential election.

OREGON-DOUGLAS.

From Our Own Correspondent. WASHINGTON, Monday, Jan. 10, 1859. The question of the admission of Oregon into the Union threatens to come before Congress this week, and is assuming a very formidable and perplexing shape. The Democrate will insist upon its admission without waiting till it shall have a representative population, because they want two additional Senators, and the vote of Oregon, in case the Presidential election goes to the House of Representatives. The Repub icans are not quite unanimous in their opposition, it being understood that two or three gentlemen, claiming to be thoroughgoing Republicans, are in favor of admitting Oregon without contest and without conditions. With these inconsiderable exceptions the Republicans will, as a party, oppose the admission, though not all for the same reasons. Some will oppose it simply on the ground that the new State appears by the recent census, a census taken with six months, not more than half enough populaion to entitle her to a member of the H Representatives. The present population of Ore-gon is about 45,000. These gentlemen say, let her remain a Territory till she has 93,000 inhabitants. The rule requiring that amount of population for the admission of a State is a good and reasonable one, and we may as well begin with Oregon as with any other Territory. There is nothing in her circumstances that requires immediate admission in olation of the 93,000 rule. This is the argument of gentlemen who desire to avoid what they are leased to term the nigger question, and prefer to have it understood that they oppose the admission

of Oregon only on general principles.

Others, more straightforward, if not so prudent, will oppose the new State because she has in her Constitution a clause allowing foreigners to vote, and another excluding negroes and mulattoes in terms of peculiar and disgrateful atrocity. majority of Republicars, however, will take the ground that so long as Kansas is prohibited from entering the Union until she has 93,000 inhabitants, it is unjust and unreasonable to admit Oregon with only half that number-with a population, probably, not so large as that of Kansas. I do not know that any other reasons are urged for opposition. But these, surely, are sufficient. An effe ever, is making to combine the opposition on some ground which will be universally maintained by

both Republicans and Americans. Mr. Douglas was not in his seat when the Senate met this morning. He came in about 12½ o'clock through a door on the Republican side of the Chamber, passed by the Republicans without receiving any greeting whatever. As he reached his seat he was met by Mr. Green of Missouri, who shook hands with him. Stuart of Michigan, Gwin of California, Mallory of Florida, Hunter of Virinia, Jefferson Davis, and one or two other Demo crats came forward to welcome him. An attempt was made in the gallery to raise a round of applause but it resulted only in a slight stamping by one or two persons. Mr. Douglas did not remain throughout the day in the Chamber, but after a somewhat protracted conference with Mr. Seward left the Hall in the middle of the debate on the French Spoliaevidently not recovered entirely from the fatigues his Illinois campaign.

The Douglas organ in this city, The States, contains this morning a most disgraceful article on two or three prominent Republican members of the House of Representatives-Messrs. Giddings. Granger of New-York and Washburn of Maine. The cause of this intemperate outburst was the good-natured colloquy between the two first-named gentlemen and Mr. Bryan of Texas, on the secesion of that State from the Union. Mr. Giddings s termed "a malignant old man, who brings a head whitened and a hand trembling with years o the baser instincts of insult and slander. Giddings and Granger, it says, "hoped to provoke the ardent Texan into some such practical vindi-cation as has immortalized Sumner."

Mr. Washburn's excellent speech to-day seems have stirred The States to its foulest depths. It Mr. Jocko Washburn can do little than manifest the mischievous malignity which animates the tribe of which he is a conspicuous member. No one of his Brazilian brethren could object with more hideous grimaces than he, or display more impotent anger against the superio ability to which he is obliged to submit."

Messrs. Giddings, Granger and Washburn are ot alone the recipients of these savory compli-

ments. Of Mr. Seward it says:

"Seward dedicates the resources of an astute and aspiring nature to the criminal purpose of fostering a sectional strife. He submits, like Scylock, to the infignities inseperable from his creed, and reposes in his neart the revenge which his selfish schemes promise to rstify."

Even Mr. Douglas's special friends are not spired.

Very is a pleasant

Even Mr. Douglas's special friends are not special in this general shower of mad. Here is a pleasant allusion to a leading Douglas Democrat:

Mantagement aspiring to the honors of a "Bully Montgomery, aspiring to the honors of a erny Sumner, insults a gentleman, has his head token, and goes to the asylum of the police office." I copy these things for THE TRIBUNE, not be-

suse anything so dirty a sheet as The States may say of gentlemen, is of any consequence, but be-cause the new editor of the paper of which this is a leading article, obviously from his pen, is considered in Virginia, I am told, a first-rate specimen of true Southern gentleman. It is well now and hen to let the public see and admire the graces of our slave-holding chivalry, to appreciate the ame-neties of plantation breeding.

BUSINESS BEFORE CONGRESS.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune. WASHINGTON, Jan. 11, 1850.

The great measure of settlement to terminate our civil disorders and establish universal harmony smong the States, known as the Kansas-Nebraska bill, passed here over four years ago, is still dis-

playing its peculiar virtues in Kansas. Capta n Mentgomery and Osawatamie Brown are continuing the same kind of settlement then made. The Yankees were a long while in rousing in Kansas, and they are equally long in settling down again. The lesson is not lost upon our legislators. There are growing suspicions among them that it is easier to kindle a conflagration than it is to extinguish ita reflection so profound that it escaped the attenof the great movers of the mea-It is believed that Commanders Brown and Montgomery will have to be treated with on the basis of their military successes. No doubt is entertained of their genuine heroism, or of the great services they have rendered to the Free-State

Congress is likely to pass the French Spoliation bill, it having gone through the Senate. The House is deemed to be largely in its favor; and as no money is required, but only a Government Stock bearing 5 per cent interest, payable at pleasure, to carry out its stipulations, Mr. Buchanan need not veto it on the ground of want of money. prospect of this long-standing claim at last taking he form of a law was never better than now. Jeff. Davis vetoed the bill when Pierce was Presient, as he did also the bill granting public lands to the States for insane asylums. It is not known that Mr. Buchanan has anybody in his Cabinet to do his vetoing for him on this occasion.

do his vetoing for him on this occasion.

It is not believed that anything will be done with
the tariff this session. Mr. Morrill of Vermont is
industriously engaged in elaborating a bill which the Opposition may support. But whether it will get the support of a majority of Congress is much more doubtful. Mr. Buchanan is the only member of the Administration who feels any great solicifor a change of the present tariff, and his main idea is to have specific instead of ad valorem du-ties: and to get up the rates on some kind of iron for the benefit of some of his Pennsylvania friends. With this scheme the body of his party do not sympathize. Mr. Cobb and his backers believe in peedy revival of business, and that with this, the existing tariff will give revenue enough. They do not say so in so many words, but this is their idea, and their plan is to supply the temporary wants of the Treasury by borrowing. We may look for the Treasury by borrowing. We may look for another loan, but not for a change in the tariff. The only consideration that raises the least presumption of a modification, is to be found in the political bearings of the question. But the party in power is so broken and divided on this, as on every other political question, that it is impossible to see how they can agree.

It is by no means so certain, as is sometimes al-leged, that the bill pensioning the Soldiers of the War of 1812 will not pass the Senate. Senators feel chagrined and disgusted with the precipitate action of the House, and are inclined to shun the responsibility which the House shirked and threw upon their shoulders. The case is not an agreeable

The Pacific Railroad looms a little. There is ven a chance of a bill passing the Senate. Doolittle has a scheme of simultaneously starting three roads, a northern, middle and southern one. He is for having each self-making, and let it go as far as it will, on the basis of giving away alternate ections of land to actual settlers, and have the remaining half given to the construction of the road idea prevails that this plan would make the

The design to destroy the fishing bounties exists in full vigor. It is believed that the bill which passed the Senate last session will be forced through the House at this.

THE COURT LADIES OF WASHINGTON. The New-York correspondent of The Springfield Republican, evidently a woman, writes:

When I think of Mr. Douglas's struggles, labors, anxieties, for the last few months, in order to secure his reelection. I conclude that he must have at least a his receivement, I conclude that he must have at least a weary life of it. So much was staked—his fortune, his fame, his hope of the Presidency. The time had come when he must rise or set, brighten or go out in the political world. He sold his house at Washington, mortgaged his large property in Illinois, and during all the burning Summer "electioneered" abroad, while his wife electioneered quite as ancreasfully at home.

On the Subhath also workinged devoutly in the Cath-On the Sabbath she worshiped devoutly in the Cath-olic church at Chicago, while during the week she gracefully propitiated the Protestants. At the Lake View House she exerted a marked personal influence View House she exerted a marked personal influence over the gentlemen congregated there, who as usual were quite willing to be led by a young, beautiful and brilliant woman. Educated at Washington, long a "copylet" for the "House," she is thoroughly initiated into chicanery of political life, and knows how to touch with a sure and delicate hand its most intricate wires. That Mrs. Douglas will do her part toward making herself "lady of the White House," no one who knows her doubts. Give her all wifely honor. She has rescued Mr. Douglas from at least some of his low associations. He becomes drank less often, and low associations. He becomes drank less often, and in social life is now admitted into society from which he was once excluded. That he is to day the great man of the political world, he probably owes to him-self. But if only through the lowest sycophancy, the meanest subterroge, through the pools of craft and falsebood, one is to wade to "greatness," let us all pray to be halle.

prac to be little.

A propos of female politicians, Mrs. Douglas is not alone. Mrs. Conrad, a young, rich and lovely widow, "who (another has said) has too good sense to marry," is called the greatest courtiveer in Washington, ry, 'a called the greatest countrieer in Washington, and exerts no small influence over state affairs. He full-length photograph, with those of all the other beauties of grandpapa Buchaean's court, to be seen at Brady's in Br. adway. First stands Mrs. Douglas; her physique is spiended—not soft and pliant, but proved and queenly after the Roman model. Dark hair, eyes, classic features, brill and complexion, with a compariding rather than winning expression. The hair, eyes, classic features, brill ant complexion, with a commending rather than winning expression. The picture does not do her justice. Her dress of black silk is not becoming, and is made in a fashion which robs sorrewhat the grace of her perfect form. Next stands Mrs. Cenrad, all grace, clad in black velvet with pearls. A willy, a subtic, a beautiful Greek, with far-searching eyes, peach-tinted check, and wavy, golden brown hair. Beside her, stands Madame Le Vert of Mobile, long an habitue of Wash-roten. ington, who for her social genius is preëminent above all American women. Madame Le Vert, without all American women. Madame Le Vert, without being beautiful, either in form or feature, has reigned as a "helle" since she was ten years old. She has traveled widely, has visited nearly all foreign courts, can carry on conversation in alx different languages as one time, and be equally charming in all. Yet not in her talents, nor in her accom-plishments, lies her fascination, but in the graial sweetness, new net reachanton, our integrands sweetness, naturalness, and prifect simplicity of her manners, which seem to give her possession of all hearts. Her clear, blue eye overflows with the exuberance of kindness, while around the series mouth all gentle affections seem to have found dwelling. She wears a dress of brown silk with gorgeous bordered flourners, and a crimson rose in her hair. The sweetest flounces, and a crimson rose in her hair. The sweetest compionent I ever heard for Madame Le Vert, was uttered to me by one of her personal friends: "She is "like a flower out in rature." Next her is Harrist Lane of the "White House," Mr. Buchanan's niece. A blonde, cold and state-sque; pure and passion as marble—one's very admiration gives them a c She stands in a versadah, the capitel in sight. She stands in a verandah, the capitol in sight. A spray of flowers in her hair falls low upon her har and beautiful neck. She looks a model of repuse; the rery Miss Lane whom the papers assure as "receive with great dignity." And then, Lady Gote Oadely the Yankee English woman, who had seen fit recently to dip her fingers into Nicaragus effairs, who rule not only her dear "Sir William," but ourlady-like of President. Well, she is coarse and homely enough and, according to the notion of your "Own Correspondent," is dressed in horrid taste. She wears but our lady-like oh pondent," is dressed in horrid taste. She wears a strug of jets stoomd her head of the size of walnuts; strag of jets atoma far head of the size of walnuts; another around her neck of equal rotungity. She does not seem to care for an ample shirt, and has interly discorned the "line of beauty" in its "fall," for it is "skimped," shorter behind than before, and the flounces curre up on the sides. But she has a faron eye, and her whole bearing indicates, in even more than an ordinary degree, the woman's penchant power to the total contract of the contract of the

SLIDELL AND DOUGLAS.

To the Editor of The Washington States.

SIR: Since my recent arrival in New-York, I have een, for the first time, a publication made by the for. John Slidell, denying positively that he authorpublished in The Press and Tribane of Calengo, just before the late Illinois election, to the effect that the slaves belonging to my children in Mississippi were cruelly and inhumanly treated. In this dentit, Mr. Slidell does justice to himself. He goes further, and

says:

That the alleged statement, let it come from whatever course it may, is a base fabrication, in whole and in part, without a shadow of foundation in truth."

In this he does justice to me: for, as the guardian of my children, I hold myself responsible for the manner in which these slaves are treated. I should not consider myself called upon to rotice Mr. Slidell's publication had he paused here, and not have added the following paragraph:

"Mr. Deuglas has, by suchorising and countersneing anany

mons attacks on me, through a person efficiating as his prima acretary, lost all claim to the explanation that I would observe you have have promptly volunteered to give him.

It is due to myself to publish an emphasis denial of the truth of the implication in the above paragraph. It is not true that I have authorized or counteranced anonymous attacks upon Mr. Slidell. It is true, however, that when the fact was first brought to my notice that Dr. Brainard, a Federal office-holder and my enemy, had essued to be published, during my absence, in the Abolition organ of Chicago, this "base fabrication," with the name of the Hon. John Slidell as authority for its truth I denounced it as such a calamny deserved, and expressed the opinion to my friends that it should be copied and circulated for the purpose of showing the base means employed to defeat my election, and also with the view of drawing forth such disshowing the base means employed to defeat my eac-tion, and also with the view of drawing forth such discleanres as would expose to public contempt the real author of the calumny, which object has been fully ac-complished by the letter of Mr. Sidell.

AN AGGRAVATED CASE OF WIFE. POISONING.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune. NORWALK, Conn., Jan. 11, 1859. Great excitement was produced in this town in the

S. A. DOUGLAS.

early part of last week, by the announcement the Frederick B. Brigham, until within a few month Principal of the toble "Union School" of this place, and since that time occupying a similar position in one of the public schools of your city, had been arrests; en a grand jurors complaint for an attempt to poisee his wife. After a brief hearing before Justice Hab. bell, he was put under bonds of \$2,000 to appear before him on the 10th inst., in default of which, be was committed to the County Jail at Bridgeport.

Yesterday the trial was commenced before Justice Hubbell, and it was concluded this afternoon. The Hop. O. S. Ferry, State's Attorney, appeared for the prosecution, and the Hon. Charles Hawley of S'ALford, for the prisoner.

Among the witnesses examined were the wife of the prisoner, her mother, the nurse who attended her durng her confirement, which occurred a month ago; also her physician, Dr. Lynes, and Prof. St. John of one of the medical colleges of your city.

The testimony went to show that the prisoner has

administered poison to her at various times since she gave birth to an infant, by means of her medicines and food, and more especially by an apple which she da not est, but, without his knowledge, conveyed to be physician, by whom, and also by Prof. St. John, at his instance, its contents were subjected to various chemical tests, and found by each to contain a large quantity of arsenic-say from ten to twelve grains. The evidence of these gentlemen was listened to with

breathless attention by a crowded and most interested auditory, and at its conclusion the case was submitted to the Justice without argument, save very briefly of the single point of the amount of bail to be required of the prisoner for his appearance at the next session of the Superior Court of this county, to be held in March, when it was promptly fixed at \$5,000. At the conclusion of the argument of the State's at

torney, and also at the rendering of the judgment, the suppressed emotions of the crowd seemed about to break out in irrepressible applause, but it was checked with a night outburst. As yet we hear the bonds demanded are not obtained. No event of a similar nature has ever excited such deep interest among the people of this vicinity. The high position held by the accused in this community, until within a short time, as a successful instructor of youth, a member of the Church, Superintendent of a Sabbath-School, and a gentleman of popular and winning address; and the delicate condition of his wife, appealing so teaderly to the best feelings of the husband and father, as well as to the kindest sympathies of all; these and other considerations have combined to throw around this case, elements calculated to stir the popular mind to its depths, as in the celebrated case of Prof. Webster.

We would not prejudge the prisoner, but shall rejoice if he is able to establish his innocence; or, if proved guilty, if he shall be brought to repentance.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

COMMISSIONERS OF EMIGRATION.

1859. 1858. 1857. Number of Inmates in Institutions 1,532 .1,150 1,999 120 pital *2 6 746 60- 748 60 \$5,434 28 Total.....

KINGS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
A meeting was held yesterday, Mr. SMITH in the

No payments in 1859.

chair.

The drafts of several acts were submitted for preentation to the Legislature: one fixing the Sheriff's
salary at \$2,400 a year for turnkey's fees, and \$600 a
year for formishing returns to the Secretary of State.
To take effect Jan. 1, 1861; another prohibiting its
taking of shell-dish in the waters of Kings County by
means of dredges; and another empowering the Suprintendents of the Poor to act as Justices of the Peace
in certain cases. The Clerk was directed to send copies of the acts to Albary.

intendents of the Clerk was directed to in certain cares. The Clerk was directed to its of the acts to Albany.

The subject of employing female prisoners in the Penitentiary was referred to the Committee on Penitentiary, with power to make such arrangements at tentiary, with power to make such arrangements at tentiary.

they may deem proper.

A communication was received from the late Sorregate, stating that he had received \$800 as fees during the last ten months of his official term. Also, that the amount of property of deceased persons handed over to his successor, was \$18,093 69. The paper was The report of the Keeper of the Penitestiary

showed that the total number of inmates in the Pentertiary on the 1st inst., was 254. Admitted the pre-

reding month, 111; discharged, 124.

The Board went into an election for Keeper of the Penitentiary, in place of James Edwards, resigned, with the following regult:

...... 3 Total.....

Mr. Helms, who is at present an Assistant Keeps, was deciared elected, to take effect on the 1st of February.

The Committee on the subject of purchasing addition to the subject of purchasing additional to the subject of purch

tional land upon which to erect a small-pox hospital made two reports, majority and minority. Both re-ports agreed that Bergen Island in Flatlands was the ost suitable place, but as it could not be purche most suitable piace, but as it could not be purchased unless a sum greatly exceeding its value was paid, a could not be secured. They therefore abandon that project, and the majority recommend purchasing property adjoining the present County Farm. The minority report in favor of purchasing the Crooks Farm, in Flatlands, which contains 70 acres uplast and from 500 to 1,000 marsh and meadow lands. The proper safed is \$25,000. The reports were laid out. price asked is \$25,000. The reports were laid over until next meeting, and the Board adjourned until thefirst Wednesday in February.

THE ISLAND OF ROCK ISLAND DECLARED THE PROPERTY OF THE PREEMFTORS.—From a letter just received from well-informed parties from Washington, we gican the following most important news:
The Commissioner of the Land Office has decided that the reservation of Rock Island for military purposes ceased in 1848, and that the land became subject to preferation by the transfer. posses ceased in 1816, and that the land became subject to presimption by the transfer then made by the Sectiony of War to the Land Department, all except that on which the public buildings stood. There are two parties claiming the right to the lots on which they have settled. Each claim for possession about the same time.

same time.

The Rock Island preëmptors are Messrs. B. C. Smith, J. H. Langley, Jesse Kennedy, H. Adams, Henry Chamberlin, James Lackey, W. B. O. Skelles, Cyrus Conklin. They have built nouses and made improvements, and have also lived with their families on the Island for almost two years past. The other set are Messrs. Thales Lindsley, C. T. Church, Steward, Fred. Calkins. There were three others who have lost their claims as precupptors by leaving the land. The latter are Messrs. Raub, Fairclough and Waterman.

[Rock Island Com.

WINTER AT THE SOUTH.—At St. Helens, S. C., inst week, the orange trees were building, and correspond from wasted seed, was from five to six inches in hight.